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TELEGRAM

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ACTION RP-10

INFO OCT-01 AOS-00 AID-07 INR-10 CIAE-00 10-15 NEA-06
NSAE-00 MA-06 TRSE-00 SP-02 SR-04
-----347537 0203502 /16

P 020337Z OCT 81
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0013
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR POUCH
AMCONSUL LAHORE POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 12082

E.O. 12065: ROS-4, 10/0/91 (KING, B.) OR-M
TAGS: SREF, EAID, UNHCR, PK
SUBJECT: (U) VISIT TO PAKISTAN OF UN REFUGEE
COMMISSIONER

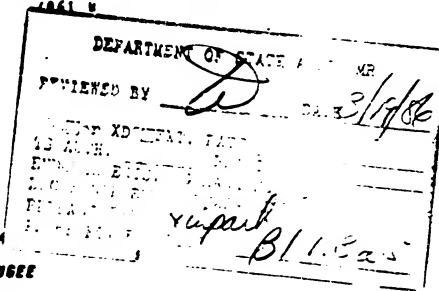
REF: (A) PESHAWAR 400 (B) PESHAWAR 401 (BOTH NOTAL)

1. (U) UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES POUL HARTLING
CONDUCTED A SEVEN-DAY SURVEY, SEPTEMBER 21-27, OF
UNHCR-LED AFGHAN REFUGEE RELIEF EFFORT IN PAKISTAN. HE
CONFERRED WITH NUMEROUS GOP, UN, AND DONOR NATION
OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT ZIA, AND VISITED REFUGEE
VILLAGES IN NORTHWEST FRONTIER PROVINCE (NWFP) AND
BALUCHISTAN. HARTLING PRAISED THE GOP FOR ITS
HOSPITALITY AND GENEROSITY TOWARD THE "WORLD'S LARGEST
REFUGEE POPULATION". COMMISSIONER DIRECTLY ADDRESSED
PROBLEM OF MULTIPLE AND FALSE REGISTRATIONS, CONCEDED
THAT THERE WERE DIFFICULTIES AND ANNOUNCED THAT A
"REENUMERATION" OF THE REFUGEE POPULATION WAS
CURRENTLY UNDERWAY. THIS EFFORT WOULD BE COMPLETED
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IN BALUCHISTAN WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS AND IN NWFP.

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WHICH HAS A MUCH LARGER REFUGEE POPULATION, WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS.

2. (U) HARTLING INDICATED THAT UNHCR CLEARLY PREFERRED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION AS SOLUTION TO REFUGEE PROBLEM. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, HARTLING STATED THAT THE REFUGEES WISHED TO RETURN HOME AS SOON AS CONDITIONS PERMITTED, AND THAT THE UNHCR WAS PREPARED TO HELP. HARTLING SAID HE HAD INFORMED THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN THAT UNHCR'S "POLICY TOWARDS THE REFUGEE WAS ABSOLUTELY HUMANITARIAN AND NOT POLITICAL".

3. (LOU) ON SEPTEMBER 27, HARTLING MET RANKING REPRESENTATIVES OF DONOR NATIONS IN ISLAMABAD. ALTHOUGH THE REFUGEES LIVED IN PRIMITIVE CONDITIONS, HE SAID, THEY APPEARED FIT AND WITH HIGH MORALE. THE COMMISSIONER SAID HE WOULD PROPOSE A UNHCR BUDGET OF DOLS 72 MILLION FOR CY 1982 WHICH WOULD STRESS VOCATIONAL TRAINING. THE UNHCR WOULD ALSO HELP UNDERNUTRITION, IMMIGRATION AND REFORESTATION SCHEMES -- NONE OF WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN AS PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT MEASURES.

4. (U) THE DAY AFTER HARTLING'S DEPARTURE, THE GOP ANNOUNCED THE EXPANSION, WITH UNHCR AID, OF AN INCOME-GENERATING PROGRAM FOR REFUGEES. PROGRAM INVOLVES 14 CARPET-WEAVING CENTERS IN MUFP AND BALUCHISTAN TO TRAIN YOUNG LOCAL AND REFUGEE BOYS IN CARPET-MAKING. IN ADDITION, THE GOP ANNOUNCED THAT SIMILAR CENTERS WOULD BE SET UP FOR WOMEN. THE GOP RELEASE SAID NEARLY DOLS 14 MILLION WOULD BE SPENT ON THIS PROGRAM DURING CY 1982.

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5. (C) COMMENT: AS SEEN FROM HERE, ALMOST ALL ASPECTS OF HARTLING'S LOCALLY WELL-PUBLICIZED VISIT WENT SMOOTHLY. THE GOP WAS ASSURED OF CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR THE RELIEF EFFORT, DONOR NATION REPS WERE GIVEN AN ARTICULATE AND EFFECTIVE EXPOSITION ON THE SUCCESSES OF UNHCR IN PAKISTAN, AND A NEEDED SHIFT IN UNHCR POLICIES WAS MADE PUBLIC. HARTLING SEEMED GENUINELY PLEASED WITH WHAT HE HAD SEEN AND CONVEYED THIS TO HIS AUDIENCES..

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